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ABSTRACT

Prison librarians usually work in isolation from other librarians, so getting information and advice about their jobs can be difficult. This book offers a guide to prison librarians, presents new ideas, and raises compelling issues about this field of librarianship. Ten current or former prison librarians cover all aspects of prison libraries and the unique challenges that they face. Topics are: "The Prison Community" (Daniel Suvak); "The Planning Process" (Rhea Joyce Rubin); "The Professional Staff" (Sandra Souza); "The Inmate Staff" (Stephen M. Mallinger); "Collection Development" (Diana Reese); "Services" (Rhea Joyce Rubin and Daniel Suvak); "Programs" (Nancy Pitts); "Literacy" (Ann Piascik); "Budgeting" (Daniel Suvak); "The Facility and Equipment" (Timothy Brown); "Automation" (Vibeke Lehmann); and "Providing Legal Access" (Jay Ihrig). Contributors were selected to represent a cross-section of the states, types of prison, and types of experience. Appendices include a sample collection development policy, request for reconsideration of library materials form, checklist for reconsideration of library materials form, and sample automation needs assessment survey. A 66-item bibliography contains recommended reading for prison librarians. (Contains over 150 references.) (MAS)

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